REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2005. Claims 19-21, 23-27 and 29 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 19, 22-24, 26-29 and 30-36 remain in the application. Claims 1-29 were originally presented. Claims 1-18, 20, 21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 19 and 24 have been amended. New claims 30-36 have been added. Support for the new claims is clearly found in the original claims, specification and figures.

Election/Restriction Requirements:

Applicant confirms election of Group II, claims 19-29, in response to the restriction requirement of 3/30/2005. New claims 30-36 are directed towards the group II.

Applicant confirms election of species B, claims 19-21, 23-27 and 29 in response to the election requirement of 3/30/2005, without traverse. New claims 30, 31, and 33-26 are generic while new claim 32 is directed towards species B.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 25 was rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 25 has been deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 24 and 25 (including independent claim 24) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonnett.

The Bonnett reference discloses a bulk fibrous material hung between two halves of a mold with a blow-moldable plastic parison extruded within the material. The Bonnett reference does not disclose adhering fibrous material to the surface of the mold, but clearly shows the fibrous material loose within the mold. FIG. 2.

In contrast, independent claim 24 sets forth:

"adhering a bondable layer of fibrous material against an inner surface of a mold shaped to form a substantial enclosure."

The element of adhering a bondable layer of fibrous material against an inner surface of a mold is not taught in the Bonnett reference.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 24 is allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19-21, 23-27 and 29 (including independent claims 19 and 24) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dallum in view of Bonnett, Freeman, and Sumner. Claims 23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dallum in view of Bonnett, Freeman, Sumner and Seemann.

Applicant respectfully traverses the citation of the Dallum reference to the method claims of the present invention because the Dallum reference is completely devoid of any enabling disclosure regarding a method of manufacture. The Dallum reference only discloses a container and simply states that a "thin non-woven glass fiber surfacing mat 18 can be positioned ... between the inner wall 14 and the outer wall 16." Col. 2, lines 32-34. The description of the mat as a surfacing mat indicates that it is simply placed on the surface of the inner wall 14. Nowhere does Dallum indicate how the tank is manufactured. The Dallum reference only states that the tank can be formed in two halves and secured together (col. 2, lines 18-20); and that the halves can be formed on a collapsible mandrel (col. 3, lines 1-4). But Dallum fails to give any disclosure whatsoever that indicates how the tank is actually made, let alone how (or if) the fiber surfacing mat could be formed with the inner or outer walls. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Dallum reference cannot be relied upon for providing any enabling disclosure with respect to a method of manufacture, and requests that the reference be withdrawn from any rejection.

As described above, the Bonnett reference discloses a bulk fibrous material hung between two halves of a mold with a blow-moldable plastic parison extruded within the material. The Bonnett reference does not teach or suggest adhering fibrous material to the surface of the mold,

but clearly shows the fibrous material loose within the mold. FIG. 2. In addition, the Bonnett reference clearly teaches to inject resin into the mold to impregnate the fibrous material while in the mold, and curing the resin while in the mold to form a "smooth exterior surface [that] provides an attractive appearance for finished components and protects the fibrous material." Col. 3, line 61- col. 4, line 32. The Bonnett reference does not teach or suggest removing an enclosure formed in the mold with the fibrous material exposed, or attaching another fiber with a resin matrix to the fibrous material when removed from the mold.

The Freeman reference discloses a hollow interior liner that conforms to the interior shape of a mold, and that serves as a support for a covering of fibrous material. Thus, Freeman does not teach or suggest adhering a fibrous material to a mold surface. Resin is injected into the mold to impregnate the fibrous material between the mold and the liner. The Freeman reference does not teach or suggest removing an enclosure formed in the mold with the fibrous material exposed, or attaching another fiber with a resin matrix to the fibrous material when removed from the mold.

The Sumner reference teaches rotationally molding a liner with "chips" of material. Sumner fails to teach or suggest adhering a fibrous material to the surface of a mold, or removing an enclosure formed by the mold with the fibrous material exposed, or attaching another fiber with a resin matrix to the fibrous material when removed from the mold.

The Seemann reference teaches a vacuum bag for drawing resin through a fiber lay-up. Again, Seemann fails to teach or suggest adhering a fibrous material to the surface of a mold, or removing an enclosure formed by the mold with the fibrous material exposed, or attaching another fiber with a resin matrix to the fibrous material when removed from the mold.

Many of the cited references appear to be directed more towards resin transfer molding techniques where resin is injected into a fibrous material while in a predetermined form. None of the cited references, however, appear to address the problem of applying a fiber reinforcement to a molded plastic vessel. None of the references teach or suggest adhering a fibrous material to the surface of a mold. None of the references teach or suggest removing an enclosure formed by the mold with the fibrous material exposed. None of the references teach or suggest attaching another fiber with a resin matrix to the exposed fibrous material when removed from the mold.

Therefore, even if the cited references are combined, they do not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 19 and 24.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 19 and 24 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection. Dependent claims 23, 26 and 29 are allowable for at least their dependence on an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 19, 22-24, 26-29 and 30-36 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Garron M. Hobson at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Seven claims were added (claims 30-36), including two independent claims (claims 32 and 34), while twenty-one claims were canceled (claims 1-18, 20, 21 and 25), including four independent claims (claims 1, 8, 13 and 18). Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 3 day of June, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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